

Appl. No. 09/272,240
Amdt. dated April 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2005

PATENT
Docket: 990382

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-26, as amended, will remain in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8-12, 14, 15, 17, and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Overy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,530, hereinafter "Overy").

Applicant teaches a technique for enabling a user of a wireless handset to avoid navigating through multiple stages of a hierarchical menu structure in order to access a desired feature of the handset.

Consider exemplary independent claim 1, which recites in relevant part:

"...entering a sequence of inputs using a user interface, said sequence causing the controller to navigate through one or more stages of a hierarchical menu structure;

storing said sequence of inputs in a memory; and

defining a procedure for retrieving the sequence of inputs from the memory to navigate through the hierarchical menu structure in order to operate at least one selected feature of the handset." (emphasis added).

As described in the "Response to Arguments" section of the Action, "Overy discloses a radiotelephone that has speed-dialing capabilities (col. 4, lines 13-23). The user of the phone programs soft keys with speed-dial numbers (i.e., the sequence of inputs) into the memory of the phone."

Programming and utilizing the soft keys as speed dial keys does not require navigation through a hierarchical menu structure to access features of the phone, but rather inputs in a single stage or mode, i.e., in the primary mode where the main keys represent the numbers on their face. Accordingly, Applicant submit that independent claims 1, 14, 17, 21, and 22, and their dependencies, are allowable.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 3-5, 7, 13, 16, 18, 20, and 24-26 were rejected over Overy in combination with one of Schmidt (U.S. Patent No. 6,360,110), Reber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,946 hereinafter "Reber"), and Frederiksen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,530, hereinafter "Frederiksen").

Schmidt was cited for disclosing speed dial numbers stored in a phone memory that can be dialed using voice commands. Reber was cited for disclosing the use of a stylus as a user interface. Frederiksen was cited for disclosing the user of an overridden key on a keypad. None of Overy, Schmidt, Reber, and Frederiksen teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, a technique for enabling a user of a wireless handset to avoid navigating through multiple stages of a hierarchical menu structure in order to access a desired feature of the handset. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 3-5, 7, 13, 16, 18, 20, and 24-26 are allowable for the reasons given above and for their additional limitations.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-845-8450.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/21/05

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